

COOLANT CONTROL FOR RAPID INDUCTION OF MILD HYPOTHERMIA

ABSTRACT

The invention is directed to techniques and apparatus for controlling the temperature of a coolant delivered to a patient in a hypothermic therapy system, including a hypothermic therapy system that can be applied to a patient outside or inside a hospital setting. In general, the coolant is in a pressurized form at ambient temperature, and is expanded proximate to the patient to cause the coolant to cool. Cooling garments placed in contact with the body of the patient circulate the cooled coolant proximate to the patient to cool the patient. A controller controls the temperature of the coolant by mixing the coolant with ambient air, for example, to reduce the risk of harm the patient.